THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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NOTICE

THE Trustees of the HINDOO PATRIOT Newspaper and Press have this day appointed Babu Rajkumar Sarvadhikari, of No. 27 Mott's Lane, Manager of the Hindoo Patriot Press, and authorised him to sign all bills, to grant receipts, under his signature as Manager, for all sums remitted to him on account of the Press, and generally to conduct the business of the Press on behalf of the Trustees and under their instructions.

Under the direction of the Trustees,
RAJENDRALALA MITRA,
One of the Trustees.

CALCUTTA
September 11, 1886.

With reference to the above Notice I request that all business communications (advertisements, changes of address, jobworks &c.,) should be addressed to me as Manager, at the present Office of the paper, No. 27 Mott's Lane, and all remittances made payable to me.

All old Bills, not yet realized, will be countersigned by me before re-issue; and henceforward all Bills and Receipts will be signed by me as Manager of the Press on behalf of the Trustees.

Calcutta
27 Mott's Lane
September 12,1886
RAJKUMAR SARVADHIKARI,
Manager,
Hindoo Patriot Press.

THE FORTNIGHT.

MONDAY, 4TH OCTOBER.

THE Indian army needs strengthening. With the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, the Governor General in Council directs the immediate formation of a second battalion of the 5th Gurkha Regiment. The after-rainy-weather campaign against Burmese "Dacoits" may not improbably have necessitated the addition.

THE Sind-Pishin Railway from Sibi to Sharigh, a distance of 73½ miles, was opened for goods traffic on the 1st instant. Its utility may be demonstrated at no distant date

THE Russian papers are furious against England. Some urge the Czar to seize Herat and invade India, if England continues to oppose Russian policy in Eastern Europe. We expected as much. Russia knows too well that she can have no permanent hold over the "noisy corner," if even she cares to do so. Her eye is constantly directed compass-needle-wise (not to the north though, for it is cold enough there) towards the "Near East," and she but seeks an excuse to punish the lamb for the crime of its sire. But the lion, unfortunately for her, is too wide awake, and is not *quite* a lamb now. Russia is not expected to, and cannot, come out of the Bulgarian business extra gloriously. It is said that the Czar is greatly dissatisfied with M. de Giers, and is thinking of superseding him. Probably because the Monsieur is not quite so sanguine as the leaders of the "war party," and would not go his sovereign's length. THERE is, however, no corroboration of this in any of the Russian papers.

THE Russian papers have published a letter stating that a Russo-Turkish alliance is about to be formed to arrange the affairs of Eastern Europe. The belief is growing stronger on the Continent that some partition scheme has been settled by the three Emperors. WE shall have a good many of these gups before we get at the real thing. Why, a Russo-Turkish *alliance* is the veriest absurdity that the most heated and imaginative brain could procreate.

TUESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER.

THE Government of India is said to be still without official confirmation of the alleged appointment of Sir Lepel Griffin as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. Enquiries, however, have been addressed to London, and all doubts should be set at rest shortly. It is quite unusual for Reuter to cook "promotion" messages for the benefit of his constituents.

A CURIOUS Divorce suit lately came on for hearing at the Bombay High Court. The petitioner, George Simpson Gardiner, at present residing in Calcutta, prayed for a dissolution of marriage on the ground of his wife's adultery. The parties were married at Bombay in April, 1872, and lived together until 1873, when they separated. Correspondence, however, continued until 1876. In September, 1880, petitioner discovered that his wife had married again, this time a man named Quaintrough, an assistant in the Public Works Department. He also discovered that in May of the same year a notice of his death at Calcutta had appeared in the papers. He tried to discover who inserted the notice, but failed. The co-respondent avers that he acted in the *bona fide* belief and conviction that petitioner was dead. The case is proceeding. The amenities of civilized life are many and varied.

THE Judgment of the Full Court at Madras in the Sullivan-Norton case, shows that Sir Arthur Collins joins with Justices Kernan, Muthusawmy Aiyer, and Parker in holding that an Advocate in this country, as in England, cannot be proceeded against, either civilly or criminally, for words uttered in the discharge of his duties Advocate. Their lordships differ from the opinion given by the Advocate General of Madras that an Advocate is bound to consider the position in life of the person whose conduct he is condemning, and hold that his words and acts ought only to be guided by a sense of duty to his client, and by a constant recourse to his own sense of right to guard against the abuse of the powers and privileges entrusted to him. This is as it should be. The administration of justice fails where the advocate is not left perfectly untrammelled.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER.

HOW the Russian Government deals with troublesome people, whatever their social position may be, especially if of a literary turn of mind, is shewn in the London letter of a Newcastle paper, which gives the following facts about the Krapotkine brothers:—The fate of poor Alexander Krapotkine is another illustration of the benevolent Government of "Holy Russia." There were two brothers Krapotkine, Alexander and Peter. They were wealthy Russian noblemen. Peter was brought up at Court and went into the service of the State, being at one time Governor of Eastern Siberia. Alexander devoted himself exclusively to science, and was never mixed up with political matters at all. But when his brother Peter was arrested, the police, supposing they might get documents that would incriminate Peter, searched Alexander's house, and behaved in a very brutal manner—the usual manner of the Russian police. Alexander protested against this somewhat warmly, and he was put under arrest in consequence. Not a single scrap of paper was found to involve him in any kind of political proceedings, but after being detained for some months in prison, he was transported to Siberia without accusation or trial. This was in 1876, and it was understood that his sentence was for five years. At the end of the five years, when there was a number of prisoners freed in consequence of the success of the Russians in the Turkish War, it was hoped that Krapotkine would be released, but the Emperor, instead of freeing him when the list of prisoners whose sentences were to be reduced or respited was submitted to him, wrote against his name "Another five years." This second term would have expired in a few days, and preparations were made for his return home. It is understood that instead of his being released, the present Emperor has increased his term of imprisonment for an indefinite time, and that the poor man, in despair, has shot himself. He was not connected with the Nihilist agitation, took no part in political matters, and confined his labours exclusively to science; yet simply because one brother has been a politician and has managed to escape from the hands of his persecutors, the other has been practically done to death. Both of them have been ruined and their estates confiscated.

THE Lucknow paper cries in the following bitter strain: Last year about this time we drew attention to the disgraceful manner in which General Neill's statue was huddled away in an out-of-the-way corner of the Museum, chipped and defaced. The same Vandalism is now making itself conspicuous in the demolition of the gateway which indicates the exact spot where the gallant soldier fell and died in the moment of victory. The public have a right to know the reason *why* this desecration has been resolved upon, and at whose orders; for assuredly no public purpose is served thereby, whilst the act is both unjustifiable and right-down indecent. It is not too late, we trust, for the "barbarians" to reconsider their action in this matter, and restore what their impetuosity has undone. Before anything so monstrous in the shape of demolitions was put in hand, the Deparment for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments—if it be still in existence—should have been apprised of the new departure our local Goths and Vandals had resolved upon." So think we too. The little local 'busy bodies' will commit no end of mischief for the sake of riding their hobbies.

THURSDAY, 7TH OCTOBER.

TWO of the Judges of the High Court of Allahabad, the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Straight, have pronounced strongly against the custom exempting Indians in high position from attendance in Civil Courts as witnesses. The question arose in a case in which the Raja of Kantit applied for leave to cancel an order of the Judge of Mirzapur directing the Magistrate of that district to summon him as a witness. In some charges connected with family disputes before the Magistrate, the name of the Raja of Kantit was included in the list of witnesses, and the Magistrate passed an order that sufficient reason had not been shown for his being summoned. The Judge, however, set aside this order, and directed the Magistrate to summon the Raja, and against this order the Raja appealed to the High Court. The Chief Justice said that he could not see how any one could object to give evidence when summoned as a witness in a court of Justice. He could not listen to the plea that it would tend to lower the Raja's dignity to be examined as a witness in the cause of truth and justice, and the sooner such sentiments were eradicated the better. Mr. Justice Straight, with his longer experience of India, said that there was a general objection to being a witness not only in criminal but in Civil cases. It was impossible that the idea that the function involved a loss of dignity could be judicially recognised. Unpleasant as it was to have to attend Court

and give evidence, it was a duty which devolved alike on prince and peasant, and which could not be avoided." If the legal magnates cared to study the inner organisation of Indian society a little more closely, they would not have pronounced so hasty an opinion. The Government do feel the force of the contention, or else it would never have conferred exemption in cases of people holding high social position.

THE *Ghee* Adulteration Bill is being vigorously enforced in Calcutta. Some native dealers have been fined the full penalty of one hundred rupees for selling the adulterated article, and summonses have been granted against two or three others.

THE Town Council of the Calcutta Corporation has declined to lend the Town Hall to the Presbyterian community for their services on Sunday during the repair of St. Andrew's Church. We think the Council acted rightly. Town Halls should not be available for religious service, while there are so many religious communities over the way.

YET another distinguished visitor. Madame Sarah Bernhardt, will, it is said, come out to India early next year. Lovers of the historinic art ought to look out for a rare treat. We hope, however that the Police columns of Indian Dailies will not swell perceptibily during the visit.

FRIDAY, 8TH OCTOBER.

IT is stated that the Queen is so exasperated over the Bulgarian affair that, if she could have had her way, a very defiant despatch would have gone to St. Petersburg long ago. She has sought to rouse the Emperor William in the interests of the brother of her son-in-law. She has made herself angry over His Majesty's refusal to interfere. and her days have been very sad during the crisis. Ministers, so the story goes, have firmly refused to adopt the policy which Her Majesty recommends, as the Queen is almost ready to fight for Prince Alexander. We must take the "statement" with an allowance.

IT is said that Mark Twain has made £140,000 by his writings.

THE Americans on the gigantic once more: this time with the most powerful engine ever invented. It is fed by 16 boilers, it consumes 28 tons of coal a day, and each revolution of its wheels throws up sufficient water to fill a good sized pond.

THE only pictures excluded from the Simla Fine Arts Exhibition in deference to the British Matron were by a lady, a spinster. This can't be a sign of the times. Eh?

Mr. P. O'Brien asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether the Chief Justice of Madras, in summing up the evidence in the Garstin Dacoity case, animadverted in open court on the behaviour of the second and third members of the Madras Board of Revenue in taking down and publishing extra-officially a statement made by a native lad to the effect that the principal Collector and chief magistrate of the Madura district, a member of the Madras Covenanted Civil Service, was in the habit of taking bribes and had incited certain parties to commit a robery and murderous assault on the Queen's highway; and whether these two gentlemen had been called on to explain their conduct.

SIR J. Gorst: The Secretary has no official information on the subject, but he will cause inquiry to be made." The enquiry if made will only bring out we are afraid, fresh filth and dirt.

SATURDAY, 9TH OCTOBER.

A CRACAW despatch describes the Czar's last journey as having been undertaken with even more precautions for his safety than usual. The day before he arrived at Warsaw a Nihilist, who had been sentenced to death some days previously, was hanged in all haste. Soldiers stood along the entire line where the imperial trains were to pass. As the trains approached, the soldiers turned about so as to be ready to fire upon any one who might try to get near the line. There were three trains—one for the imperial family, one for the baggage, and a third for railway workmen, who could repair any damage happening to the lines. On the journey the Emperor changed from one to the other train several times. At the stations the windows and blinds were closed. Alas poor soul!

MR. BYRAMJEE JEEJEEBHOY C. S. I., of Bombay, has offered a sum of Rs. 40,000 as an endowment to the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Bombay on certain terms, which, it is hoped, will be accepted by Government. Mr. Byramjee is known to have the greatest sympathy for the deaf and dumb, on account of his late grandfather, Mr. Merwanjee Bhikajee, having been a deaf mute. It may be stated that this is only one of Mr. Byramjee's many charities, he having spent large sums of money in endowing medical schools at Poona and Ahmedabad, a high school at Tanna, and founding a dispensary at Mehmoodabad, all bearing his name. This ought to tell upon, some of our millioniares. It is long since Dwarkanath Tagore gave a lakh for the poor blind of Calcutta.

WE are glad to hear that the Hon. Mr. Justice West has again accepted the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Bombay, on the Hon. Mr. Peil's translation to the Supreme Council.

SIR Alfred Lyall has left Nainital for a tour in the Kumaon hills, returning the last week of October. His Honor will return to Allahabad earlier than usual to consult the local judges about the proposed judicial amalgamation of Oudh with the N. W. P.

MONDAY, 11TH OCTOBER.

THE Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, who is, living in Paris, avoids English society and English bankers, and explains his seclusion by saying that his attention is absorbed in the writing of his memoirs and those of his family.

THE American missionaries at Rangoon state that the arms recently imported into Burmah were not intended for the superintendent of their press, but were imported by an out-station missionary for Karens, who are obliged to protect themselves against dacoits.

THE Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* in noticing the Madhav Bag meeting in his telegram observes that "the result of the meeting made it evident that a considerable section of the Hindoo community of Bombay was in favour of reform." It made evident no such thing.

THE revenue returns of the Russian Empire for the five months between January and June of the present year give a total of 240,596,686 roubles, as compared with 263,219,616 roubles for the same period in 1885. The State expenditure for the same months in 1886 was 307,528,650 roubles, which exceeded that for 1885 by 19,673,461 roubles—so that the Government of Russia has to face a steadily falling revenue and an equally steadily rising expenditure. In Russian economics that is as indication of an approaching war.

THE *Political Correspondence* has received a letter from St. Petersburg descriptive of the actual state of the construction of the Transcaspian Railway, from which it appears that, after the opening of the portion of the line from Merv and after the completion of the bridge over the Murghab, the laying of the line to Chardjui, 230 kilometres from Merv, will be energetically pushed forward. It is hoped that this section will be completed by October next. From Chardjui the Amu Darya will be crossed by means of pontoons, the line being continued in the direction of Bokhara and Samarcand.

A RANGOON paper advises purchasers of kerosine oil in the bazaar to narrowly examine any tins they may buy, as a new dodge for swindling the unwary has been discovered. A small hole is drilled in the bottom of the tin, and oil, in quantities varying from a quart to a gallon, allowed to run out. The whole is then carefully soldered up, and the tin sold as a full one. Of course, the capsules are intact, and on the strength of this, the oil is bought.

TUESDAY 12th OCTOBOR.

A LARGE number of shipowners in London constantly using the port of Aden, having seen the proposed Bill for creating a Port Trust for the port of Aden, have written to the Governor of Bombay to point out "that no legislation will be of the least use to the port unless the work of deepening the innner harbour, so as to enable vessels of deep draught to enter, remain afloat, and leave at all states of the tide, is first accomplished," and prayed "that a clause be inserted in the proposed Bill to the effect that this shall be considered the primary object of the Bill and of the Trust that may be created thereby, and that the accumulated balance now at the credit of the Aden Port Trust shall be devoted exclusively to this object."

THE number of accidents on the Indian railways in the first quarter of the current year was 534, by which six passengers and 11 railway servants were injured, while no passengers or railway servants appear to have been killed.

A BELIEF is prevalent at Constantinople, that the English Government are meditating the establishment of another Arabic Power as a rival against Turkey for the Caliphate of Islam. It is believed that the rumour originated at the Russian Embassy and so probably is not worth much.

AT Poona, on the 1st instant, Lady Reay invited a number of Native ladies to a *purdah* party to meet the Duchess of Connaught. A few European ladies were also invited. The jewellery and beautifully tinted *sarees* of the Parsee ladies gave a charming effect. After the presentations, Her Royal Highness the Duchess mingled freely amongst the guests. Such condecension of Royalty goes a very great way in winning over people's good opinion.

WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBOR.

THE French Press attribute to England a design to proclaim the annexation of Egypt when her Military and Naval precautions are complete. The Porte has been credited with instigating Russia to make inquiries if England will fix a date for the withdrawal of her forces from Egypt since the Soudan and Egypt are generally quiet. It is said that Moukhtar Pasha has received £30,000 for the purposes of intrigue. Wild stories like this sometimes *do* a good deal of harm.

THE latest additions to the list of distinguished visitors to India next cold season, are Sir Roper Lethbridge, M. P., late Press Commissioner, and Dr. Farquharson, the member for Aberdeenshire.

THE London *Gazette* formally announces that the Queen has been pleased to direct Letters Patent to be passed, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, for the annexation to the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope of a certain territory, known as the Xesibe Country.

HER Majesty was presented a few days ago with a specially made umbrella from Glasgow. The handle of the umbrella is a round globe of fine gold, representing the world, studded over with precious stones to represent Her Majesty's dominions. Her Majesty was highly pleased with the umbrella, and has caused Sir Henry Ponsonby to return her warmest thanks for the handsome gift.

SPEAKING of the lucrative character of journalism in England, the London *Spectator* writes:—"We believe we are right in saying that, out of London, there is hardly a single Editor, even of a daily paper, whose salary exceeds six hundred a year, while in London, the prizes of the profession may almost be counted on the fingers of the two hands. An unattached journalist who is clever, who works hard, who has a good connection, and enjoys good health, may possibly make seven hundred. But if he takes a longer holiday than usual, is temporarily disabled by an accident, or laid up a few weeks by illness, his earnings are proportionately diminished, and the average is probably very much less than the sum we have named."

THURSDAY, 14TH OCTOBER.

LORD Ulick Browne was entertained at Dinner on Tuesday by such of his Civilian Subordinates past and present, as were then at Darjeeling.

THE beginning of the Nilgiri Railway is to be put off, because doctors (engineers in this case) disagree. Mr. Molesworth is for the Apt system which has been

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adopted on the Hazra Mountains, whereas the Consulting Engineer to the Madras Government thinks otherwise. The Government of India is supposed to decide between the rival systems.

THE Colonial and Indian Exhibition has been a financial success. It is proposed to re-open the Exhibition next year.

THE Finance Committee will, it is expected, have their report ready before the Viceroy's arrival in Calcutta.

IT is stated that Mr. Herbert Gladstone intends to visit India, where he will be the guest of his brother, Mr. Henry Gladstone, who has for some years been a partner in the firm of Messers Gillanders Arbuthnot and Co.

MR. J. B. PEILE, the new Member of the Viceroy's Council, has joined the Central Committee of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. Mr. Peile's Bombay experience is likely to make him a most useful addition to the Committee. Sir A. Colvin has joined the Committee in the place of Sir S. Bayley, and the Maharajah of Cuch Behar has become a life member of the Committee. The Rajah of Rutlam has sent the fund a second donation of Rs. 1,000.

FRIDAY, 15TH OCTOBER.

FEVERS are raging in Calcutta to a rather unusual extent. Some physicians having large practice assert that fevers of malarious type are now seen to attack people who have never left Calcutta. Is Calcutta then growing malarious? We think it very necessary to institute an inquiry into the matter without any loss of time, so that steps may be taken to avert the evil at the outset. We would call the attention of the Health Officer to the matter.

ENGLAND will soon have a Retrenchment Commission, with objects similar to those which our Finance Committee have in view. The British Government intend to appoint a Royal Commission to curtail, without impairing efficiency, if possible, the expenditure in the various departments of State. It will inquire into the number, salaries, hours of labour, superannuation, cost of the staff and administration, regulation and organisation of the various departments, and will state whether, in their opinion, the work of the same is economically performed, whether it can be simplified, whether the method of procedure can be improved, and whether the system of control is deficient or unnecessarily elaborate.

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN leaves Simla for Bombay on the 25th of October, and visits Madras, Nagpore, and Lucknow to confer with the various heads of Government at those places, arriving at Calcutta on the 21st of November. Is not the eight months' Simla tour enough to recruit the health of our over-worked officials? These cannot be "visitation" tours to be sure, for Sir Auckland's financial acquirements cannot very materially be increased by this holiday making, except by slightly swelling the wrong side of the next year's budget. All Councillors go about roving like this before visiting Calcutta for no purpose that we can conceive.

SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER.

PORTUGESE INDIA is not idle in these days of rapid railway development. Several revised estimates have been sanctioned by the Portugese Parliament for the Marmagoa Railway. The line from Marmagoa to the Ghauts is, according to the agreement, to be opened early next year, save a distance of twelve miles which will be travelled by the traditional bullock carts so long as some tunnels are not completed.

THE price of ponies in Mandalay is getting fabulously high. Since the war, the usual supply of ponies from the Shan States has been stopped. "Burma Pony" will now be a luxury indeed in India, for besides the short supply, free traffic will lead to a good deal of deterioration of the breed.

NEWS has been received in Mauritius that the Malaggasy Government has consented to all the claims made by the French Government according to the recent treaty of peace.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1886.

THE MAHARUM RIOTS.

I.

THE warning conveyed by the late Bukreed disturbances in some of the important cities of the North Western Provinces was wholly lost upon the authorities responsible for the maintenance of order and peace. It was apprehended from a long time that the unfortunate recurrence of the coincidence of the Dusserah and the Maharum festivals would probably result in serious riots, and the Press were unanimous in their attempt to impress the gravity of the approaching situation, upon the authorities; but they appear to have taken not the slightest heed thereof. The details of the disgraceful riots at Delhi and Etwah show how pitifully wanting were the men in power, both in the means and the desire to cope with the evil before it had assumed any gigantic proportions. The *Pioneer's* Etwah and Delhi correspondents, as well as the correspondents of other daily papers, are unanimous in their testimony that the preventive Police arrangements were scandalously inadequate. At Etwah the Police had no caps to fire their guns with; they would not charge the mob though repeatedly urged to do so by the city Magistrate Mr. Hoey, who seems to have behaved with commendable coolness and bravery at the critical moment. The mounted Police are reported to have stopped stock-still in the face of the surging masses of infuriated fanatics and would not advance at the word of command to disperse the seemingly immoveable crowd. At Delhi, though the Police did not act with any serious impropriety as at Etwah, yet in numbers they were ridiculously inadequate to check the movements of the furious mob of fanatics thirsting for the blood of the infidels, in vengeance as it were of the foul and diabolical murder of their martyrs Hassen and Hossien ages since. The reports all agree as to that, and there cannot be the slightest doubt that the first and foremost duty of the Government now is to direct a close and searching enquiry into the origin of these riots whose importance we are loth to enhance, and into the conduct of the Police and the men in authority charged with the preservation of peace. Such an enquiry has been prayed for by the Hindoo inhabitants of Delhi in a large public meeting assembled, and we cannot see how the Government can very well refuse to accede to so reasonable a request. We have it on the unquestionable authority of the Delhi correspondent of the *Pioneer* who certainly cannot be charged with undue bias against men in authority, that no proper precautions had been taken to meet the all but probable contingency. The Deputy Commissioner Mr. Smyth was not at his post where duty called him at the hour of danger, but was "at the Institute" cultivating in all probability social qualities for which he might have a turn. The same correspondent informs us that the Superintendent of Police with the officers of the garrison was at the Cantonment Garden where they had been *playing tennis*. The immortal Nero playing on his fiddle when Rome was burning at his feet for his special delectation could, we fancy, have been hardly more cool. While the riots were at their height, the Deputy Commissioner is reported to have been surveying them from giddy but convenient heights of the Jumma Musjid, not caring in all probability to court the fate of Mr. Hatchel, the City Superintendent, whom an ugly cut from a Mahammedan sword had disabled in the affray. Delhi had not the excuses of Etwah, and was not at the mercy of malarial and do-nothing sickly Police constables. The fort and the Cantonment are literally within a stone's throw of the Chadney Chauk, the principal scene of disturbance, and one wonders how the city authorities could have been thick-headed enough never to think of summoning the troops just as a precautionary measure. Lives were lost, shops looted, and houses plundered: still the military and the much boasted volunteers were nowhere, and the rioters had it all in their way for hours and hours together till heavy showers of rain, and not the Police, dispersed them to the relief of the peaceful and unarmed Hindoo citizens. The troops at Delhi were in all probability inadequate to quell the disturbance which was hourly assuming gigantic proportions and reinforcements had to be sent for from Meerut. The appearance of the military restored order, and quiet is now reported and business has been resumed. Etwah, seems to have fared much better as her causalty is limited to one Mahammedan fanatic who was run through by bayonet by a Police Sepoy. She owes her marvellous escape to the tact and coolness of her Magistrate, who, when he saw that the Police force at his command was worse than useless, at once wired to Agra for military aid. But before aid could reach from Agra a detatchment of the King's Regiment, on its way to Burma by rail, was judiciously detained by the station master and succeeded in restoring order with commendable moderation and forbearance.

II.

It is now necessary to turn our attention for a moment as to which party were most to blame for the riots. We are anxious to keep clear of all feeling of partizanship, and would urge the Government to institute enquiry whereby the right conclusion may be arrived at. As Hindoos we may be suspected of endeavoring to sheild our co-religionists; but we disclaim any such idea. We are free to, confess that what we are anxious for is a close searching and impartial inquiry and infliction of exemplarily severe punishment on any body, high or low, Hindoo or Mahammedan, whose guilt is satisfactorily established. In the meanwhile we shall let the correspondents of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries, who are least liable to a charge of partiality to Hindoos, to speak out what they believe to be the truth. The Etwah correspondent of the *Pioneer* has been sanctimoniously taken to task by the *Englishman* for giving a "varnished and over-colored" report of the incident. We leave the account to be squared by the big guns, and shall content ourselves by culling as little as we can from his long report. He says:—

On Thursday shortly after midday, the Kotwal, having observed a strong gathering of Mahomedans at the "Chowkar Kuan," went to them, reasoned with them, and tried to induce them to disperse; but they would not. Finding his remonstrances unavailing, the Kotwal went to the Magistrate and reported the state of affairs, and the latter, together with the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Waddington, proceeded to the city where a guard of chowkidars, which was in waiting at the Kotwali, had been drawn up in front of the crowd. When they arrived at the Chowkar Kuan—it was about 2 p. m.—the Magistrate demanded of the assembly what they wanted, and invited the leaders to come forward that he might speak with them. A fanatic dressed in green replied: "There is no leader we are all equal!" The Magistrate went forward to this man, and asked him to step out on the road and converse with him. The fanatic refused to comply, and some persons, armed with *lathis*, made a sudden and unexpected rush at the Magistrate. He made a blow at the Magistrate, but did not succeed in dealing it as was his intention. The police reserve which had been ordered up from another part of the city, had not arrived, so the Magistrate and Superintendent of Police moved to the Kotwali and awaited the expected support. The crowd now made a rush towards the Kowtali, but the chowkidars and police anticipated the move; and being frustrated, the rioters rushed past to the opposite side of the square and took up their position on the road by which the "Ram Lila" procession was to pass. . . . . .

Every gentle effort to restore order appeared so futile that the Magistrate found it necessary to adopt more effective measures. He ordered the constables to fire on the crowd, but they hesitated in a manner not quite explicable. The Magistrate, therefore, ordered the constables to step back keeping their bayonets fixed, and the

mounted police were directed to advance and clear the street. These men drew swords, rode up to the front rank of the rioters, and then stopped dead The mounted police were urged to advance, but they would not, simply refusing to do so! The fanatical yells grew ominously louder and louder and Mahomedans with *lathies* came up from every quarter in increasing numbers. More parleying ensued, but the rioters, demanded concessions from the Magistrate in regard to the "Ram Lila" which he refused to make, and they declared they would rather die than let this procession pass. There seemed to be an intention on the part of a second crowd, at the other side of the square, to come round and take the Magistrate and his companions in the rear in case an advance was made by the police,

"The Hindus now became impatient and wanted to begin their procession, and seeing the difficult and dangerous position of the Magistrate and the furious determination of the rioters, they sent up a significant message to the effect that they were 2,000 strong and ready to act; but the Magistrate would not allow them to appear on the scene. The situation was one of extreme tension and from this time till the actual arrival of the troops the lives of the civil officers were not worth a moment's purchase. The crowd, instead of retreating before the troops, advanced to meet them, beating their breasts and shouting, *Deen, Deen*, and brandishing their weapons. The order to charge was at last given. The rioters met this movement determinedly, rushing to attack the troops. But the cold steel was too much even for men almost insane with religious ardour. The crowd retreated before the troops. Then the rioters reformed some distant further down the square. The troops advanced again, and this time were met with volleys of sticks and stones from the tops of houses and elsewhere as they drove the crowd down the streets. A body of the rioters, who had fled on the first charge and had taken up their position in the Pucca Serai, now commenced an attack on the Telegraph Office with bricks, hurt one of the servants and tried to break the telegraph wire; so the troops were brought round to the Serai, but the rioters had clambered over the walls and most of them had disappeared."

III

The story of the origin of the Delhi riots is thus told by the correspondent of the same journal: –

"The Mahomedans who were the cause of the disturbance last evening came out with a small *tazia* from the Chitli Kabar quarter, the Police at the time being engaged with the Ram Lila procession. The Deputy Inspector at the Police station nearest to the starting point of the *tazia* remonstrated and tried to induce the procession to return. The Mahomedans paid no attention and forced their way to the Chadni Chowk near the Clock Tower in the way of the Ram Lila processionists. The fact was reported to Mr. Smyth, Deputy Commissioner, who was then at the *Institute*, and he went at once to the spot with Mr. Hatchell, Superintendent of Police. On their arrival they found that Mr. Davis, Assistant Superintendent, and Inspector Hyde, who were leading the Hindu procession, had come up with the Mahomedans, and were trying to persuade them to move off the route. Mr. Smyth also spoke to the Mahomedans, but they refused to move, and suddenly attacked the Police, charging in regular style, and driving them into the Queen's Garden. Mr. Hatchell here received a sword-cut on the head, and Mr. Davis was struck by a large stone on the chest. The Police were very roughly handled, several Policemen receiving wounds from knives. Mr. Symth sent Mr. Davis to turn the Hindu procession by Garden Street and the Railway Station. *The Hindus behaved well and complied with the order.* Their procession reached the temple later in safety. The Police were woefully inadequate in numbers, and the rioters knew their strength. The want of mounted men was sadly felt."

The version given by the correspondents of other contemporaries is substantially the same. The case against the Mahammedans as aggressors is as strong as it need be, and to us it is a matter of great gratification that the Hindoos came out of the business so creditably. They never dreamt even of an organised riot and had not with them so much as a single blessed *Lathi* to defend themselves against the murderous onslaught of their compatriots. Organised rioting, resistance of constituted authority and looting of the shops were then but a part of the pre-arranged programme of our Mahammedan friends. They tried a clever dodge to fasten the blame of the whole business upon the peaceful Hindoos, and though it succeeded well enough at first, it did not eventually do. A report was spread that a Hindoo had somehow got into the Jumma Musjid, and tied a little dead pig to the pulpit. The Mahomedans got exasperated, and great rioting ensued. Five or six deaths occurred. We suspected from the beginning that this was a hoax, pure and simple, and could not be true The Jumma Musjid is no 'deserted place! It has its guards and officers to watch. In this part of the year, particularly during the festival tens of thousands of the 'faithful' swarm the mosque hourly to say their prayers. If the pig was actually there, no hand of a Hindoo, however bold, could have placed it on the pulpit, for few, however fanatical, would care to court sure discovery, and imminent death. A fanatic moreover is not a wag and acts not stealthily. A correspondent of the *Statesman* fully dispels the delusion and says:—

It is strongly believed that the Hindus did not tie the carcass of a pig to a pulpit in the Jumma Musjid, but it was a device or stratagem on the part of the Mahomedans to throw dust in the eyes of the Executive to induce them to believe that the Hindus were aggressors, and it succeeded. The Mahomedans pelted stones and brickbats themselves, and then cried out for help, and made pretext for assulting the Hindus. A Hindu dead body, covered with a sheet, was being carried by some Mahomedans, but detected by the Police. The Mahomedans were reinforced numerically from the neighbouring districts. Much of the mischief owes its origin to the fact that most of the Executive, entrusted with the duty of maintaining order, are themselves Mahomedans, and that Mr. Smyth, Deputy Commissioner, has taken into his confidence some of the Mahomedan gentry who purposely made misrepresentations and submitted exaggerated and false accounts of their own case. A Hindu temple was desecrated. Its idol was dislodged and broken. Grain shops were closed, and shop-keepers urged by the Deputy Commissoner to open shops, but it is considered unsafe to do so, now that the Mahomedan blood of fanaticism is at the highest point of heat. The Hindus petitioned the Deputy Commissioner, but to no effect. They memorialized the Lieutenant-Governor by wire, praying for protection, and received reply as follows: "The Deputy Commissioner is entrusted with the duty of keeping order. You must apply to him." The Hindus do not know what to do next. They have been advised to hold a representative meeting to go up in a body to, and constitutionally represent grievances before, His Honor. Rai Bahadur Ramkishen Dass, Rais and Honorary Magistrate, was put to insult by the Mahomedans. His life is threatened. He is shut up in his house. The Mahomedan Police officers oftentimes prefer to be idle spectators. The Ram Lila was not stopped by the order of the Deputy Commissioner, as is alleged by the *Pioneer*, but the Hindus themselves have discontinued it owing to want of guarantee of due security.

"Intelligent leaders of the Mohammedan Society" says the correspondent 'undoubtedly made use of the services of the mercenary and interested wire-pullers to bamboozle the press. Hindoos are innocent of any organised union. Their leaders shut themselves up in their houses all the time that the disturbance lasted."

The riots were unfortunately not confined to Delhi, and Etwah, Hoshiarpore and other places of the Punjab and the North Western Provinces suffered more or less, and in all and every one of the instances the Mahamedans were the aggressors. Were there but the merest loophole to get the Mahomedans out of the scrape, the pro-Mohammedan journals would have been but too glad to embrace any opportunities that they might be afforded of so doing. But they are unfortunately left without any shift and the case against their clients is hopelessly bad. Suggestions have been made in some quarters for putting down these festivals and processions for a time at any rate, if peace cannot be otherwise ensured. In others the suggestion is bolder still and is that the communities should be left to shift for themselves and that no Government interference should be made for putting down these riots, which in so many words mean that the Government should leave the peace-loving and unoffending Hindoos to the tender mercies of the fanatical followers of the Islam. As the Government is not likely to adopt either extreme course, it is not yet time for us to waste our breath in discussing them. To practical remedies therefore, however stringent and unsavoury, must the Government now turn its attention, and the evil must be put down with a heavy hand. The Hindoo and Mahomedan inhabitants of Ferozepore set a commendable example when under the presidency of their Magistrate they formed a committee and settled a reasonable programme in a friendly spirit, to which they loyally adhered. Our own idea is that every Magistrate who knows his business, ought, with the judicious and timely display of a little tact and firmness, manage these things very satisfactorily. If however these means fail his last resource namely a good Police (or military if necessary) organization for the occasion should certainly never fail. We are ashamed of the criminal negligence of the authorities which permitted the Etwah and Delhi catastrophes, and would urge the Government to take speedy and sure means of bringing the offenders to justice, one and all. It is disgraceful that the commendable spirit of toleratipn in which the Government always seeks to act, should be so inadequately recognised and its concessions so lightly regarded. That through the negligence of its own officers, superior or subordinate, its own ends should be so thoroughly defeated, will, we feel sure, be strong incentive to have a diligent searching and impartial enquiry instituted and to bring all offenders, whether officers or the rioters, to justice.

A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE.

Our contemporary of the *Statesman* is unquestionably *facile princeps* in the political economy of Indian currency. He has studied the subject very carefully; written often and at length about it; and drawn conclusions which challenge general acceptance. It is a source of satisfaction to us, therefore, to find that he is at one with us in the general proposition that we put forth last week that "other factors apart, an exporter from a silver-using country must get more for his goods in a gold currency country when the exchange is low." He says—"if silver was all that the exporter wanted—silver and nothing else—it would be true"; as we meant silver and nothing more the agreement is complete He is, however, not satisfied with our proposition. He argues that "the exporter, first of all has to pay heavy debt that is owing in gold, and the less gold he gets for his produce, the more easily, by this reasoning, does he pay his debt. Not only does he want *gold* first of all, but in the next place he wants *goods*, and it is to his advantage it seems to sell his produce for a small quantity of gold, rather than for a large quantity, although the quantity of gold his produce sells for, is the exact measure of the quantity of goods he can buy therewith." He then dwells at some length on the manner in which loss ensues, and concludes by saying—"The only investment of his produce that profits by the low exchange is the fraction of his produce that he wants returned in silver; while the paradoxical belief is—that he gains all round by low exchange." The drift of the whole article is thus a condemnation of the views propounded by us, and yet we cannot find in this a single argument that controverts our position. We wrote about two columns to show how low exchange affects us. We gave full prominence to the loss we sustain by paying our debt or tribute to the British Government in gold, observing that a fall of the exchange to one shilling would be equal to an addition to our debt of over sixteen millions sterling, which would involve the necessity of nearly doubling the land tax. We also fully pointed out at length how the silver we gain by the sale of our produce is swamped by the loss we sustain

by purchasing in gold the foreign goods we require. We noticed likewise the loss sustained by the Anglo-Indian community on account of "Home remittances." 'No calculation of trade balance—of the profits gained by the producers of wheat, rice and other staples—can,' we said, 'in any way afford consolation. The lower the exchange the more oppressive is the state of affairs to them. True, the fall of price in English goods—fall due to economic causes, quite apart from exchange—has afforded some relief, but that does not make up for the loss to any appreciable extent.' All this is our language, and this is exactly what our contemporary has to say on the subject, and it is difficult, under the circumstances, to make out how he should have been betrayed into a attitude of opposition to us. He admits that if an Indian exporter wanted silver in exchange for his goods in a gold-currency country he would gain and we said as much, and no more. In so far there is no difference of opinion, only we hedged in our general principle by the qualifying terms 'other factors apart, and our contemporary has entirely overlooked them. Indeed, he seems not to have at all read the latter part of our article. Had he done so, he could not have made our article the bull's eye of his target. The only point in which we differed from our contemporary was where we took the account of our annual debt to England at 16 millions, whereas he takes it at 20. This is, however, more apparent than real. We confined our attention to "Home charges" only, and our contemporary includes cost of supplies &c. He may easily enhance the amount by taking in the account of "family and commercial remittances," which would certainly be legitimate, but it would not in the least alter the line of the argument. There is no question that we lose, and lose heavily, though we are not in possession of data sufficiently ample, accurate and consistent to make out the *exact* amount. The last line our contemporary's remarks suggests, without directly saying as much, that we believe that our exporters "*gain all round by low exchange.*" There is nothing in our article to justify this suggestion, and we complain that our contemporary should have done us the injustice of so sadly misrepresenting our meaning, which, though very clearly set-forth, he has failed to grasp.

While on the subject it may not be amiss to note that, however convenient it may be to look upon India as a single entity, to the buyer and seller practically the case is very different. The buyer is not always the same with the seller. The buyer may be the losing party in his purchases in England while the Indian seller there may be gaining, and as they do not mutually adjust their accounts the effect on the whole is prejudicial to trade. Moreover, as amply shown by Mr. O'Connor, prices are not regulated, either here or in England, solely by the rate of exchange, 'they are governed,' as we said in our last issue, 'by a variety of factors, such as over-production, dearth, inundation, mortality, means of transport, competition, and a variety of other civilizing influences, and these complicate the question a great deal. Leaving them, however, out of calculation, and sticking, for the sake of clearness of argument, to exchange alone, it is undeniable that exchange has its influence, and that influence acts seriously against gold-using countries. It would be impossible to double the price of English goods in Calcutta when the exchange would come down to 1 shilling, and the result will be that the cost of production remaining intact in England, it will be necessary to sell English goods in India at a frightfully losing rate. At present with 1-5 exchange the return is only 141s. 8d. where there should have been 200 shillings. This difference has not yet been made up by reduction in the cost of production, and hence the depreciation of English trade in India, and it is impossible to expect that the reduction in the cost of production can keep pace with the fall of exchange at the rate at which *it has gone on lately*. The prospect therefore, we hold, is a gloomy one, and not one of "gain all round," or anything like it.

THE ROMANCE OF HINDU WIDOWHOOD.

MR. MALABARI, of Bombay, has found a coadjutor as a romancer in a Bengali. Mr. Devendranath Das, Barrister-at-law, has assumed the *role* of the reformer—we don't think the subject has come to him in a brief. Apparently he has come forward as a volunteer, and drawn a most harrowing picture of the condition of Hindu widows in the pages of the *Nineteenth Century*. Mr. Malabari, when he started on his reforming career laboured under two disadvantages; he had to address an Indian public thoroughly familiar with the subject and quite able and ready to contradict him; and he had to give a business-like character to his Notes, as he wanted to influence the Indian official world with them Mr. Das suffers not from any such drawback. His readers are entirely foreign and totally ignorant of Indian life, and they delight most in sensationalism; and the more highly spiced the dish that is served before them the better the chance of its being liked. True the days of Baron Munchauson are gone, but under the garb of history, by one born and brought up in a Hindu family, and in the pages of a popular magazine, any amount of vraisemblance may be made to pass for sterling truth, at least to produce an effect. Mr. Das was perfectly well aware of these advantages on his side, and he made the most of them. He knew, besides, that he had been cast off from Hindu Society as a slough, and had all the rancour of a renegade to bring to bear against those who had renounced him. He might have remembered that his father is still a Hindu and performs pujas, sradhas and ceremonies, that his mother was a strict Hindu and that his grand-mother was a Hindu widow following the strict rules of her condition; but he did not care to do so, or at least had no consideration to show them. His plan of action is that of the counsel for the prosecution in a conspiracy case, who has no direct or positive evidence at command. He grasps at shadows and tries to prove them to be realities. Every little bit of a fact, perfectly innocent by itself, every hint or suggestion, however unconnected or foreign, every national custom, manner, or usage, no matter whether germane to his subject or not, but which might take in his readers—he seizes with avidity and magnifies and distorts without the slightest regard for truth and honesty. This gratuitous fibling for fibling's sake in a youth—particularly of one who once belonged to our community, is to us painful to behold. We could have treated his lucubration with contempt, as they can carry no weight and have no claim to consideration; but the periodical in which they have appeared is a leading one in England, and widely read by men who have no knowledge of Indian domestic life, though they have a potent voice in our well-being, and it is meet therefore that we should expose the true character of the essay. We have not space enough at command to go through the whole series of fictions Mr. Das has put together; but a few illustrations will, we believe, suffice to convince our European friends—our Indian readers need not our help—that what has been set forth as a true portraiture is a hideous caricature. "The first twenty-four hours of a widow's life is one of rigorous fast", this is an undeniable fact, but it is also the case with the children of the deceased person. The sons must fast as well as the widowed mother and all who are able to do so. If this be impossible in the case of the young and the ailing, a cup of milk is all that is permitted, and the refreshment is not withheld from the widow only very few widows in the first outburst of their over-whelming grief can be induced to partake of it. Such is likewise the case in most civilized countries, and even in places where the wake is the national custom, the new widow is not the most prominent member of the carousal. Mr. Das, in his new-born zeal for "reform," may wish to import the wake into India—or at least in his own domestic circle—but it would be revolting to humanity. Then, during her mourning "the widow has to prepare her own food," and Mr. Das is thrown into hysterics at the idea. He might have easily avoided the fits had he remembered that on the death of his grandfather his father did the same, and that every Hindu does so when the occasion arrives. It is the custom of the country, though not a pleasant one, and very strictly observed on the death of parents. It has no special relation to widowed life. The same may be said about the food allowed during mourning. "Her food consists of boiled rice, simplest vegetables, *ghi* and milk." The writer might have remembered that sugar, fruits and certain sweeties are also permitted and freely used; and whatever they are, they are exactly what sons in mourning are allowed, and after all they are indications of no hardship whatever. Ninetynine out of every hundred Hindus in India cannot command them from year's end to year's end in the course of their lives. After the mourning the bill of fare for Hindu widows of the upper classes does not differ from what she had during married life except in the omission of fish—flesh and eggs she never had—and the substitution at night of wheaten cakes for rice, of which she may not have two meals a day. The ground of complaint about her being forced to insufficient ration is therefore the merest fiction. In England, vegetarians voluntarily accept the same diet. Mr. Das imagines he scores a good point when in the fulness of his professed sympathy for his country-women, he exclaims, "she can on no account touch meat, fish and eggs." In the name of the Prophet—figs! In India we can only smile at this silly rodomontade. No Englishman in India can be taken in by it.

The fast of *ekadasi*, twice every lunar month, is one of which Mr. Das makes the most. It is in his language "the most severely felt injunction of custom upon widows," and the picture he draws of the sufferings of a young widow on that day of trial is in his richest style. He lays on his colours thick, and spares no pains to produce the most striking effect:

"In the middle of the fasting day you will find the young widowed daughter writhing in agony of thirst and hunger, her aged mother sitting silently by her and shedding tears at the pangs of her bereaved child, who cannot, for fear of shame and ridicule, even give vent to her feelings by the only way left to her—by weeping; her face is deathly pale through want of food, her eyes are bleared with racking pain, and her lips parched with terrible thirst. Perhaps she hears the noise of dropping water; she at once turns her eyes towards it; she looks hard at it, but she dares not utter a word. She longingly watches the course of the water as it reaches the courtyard; a dog passes by and drinks of it, but she cannot touch it, she draws away her eyes from it, and mutters to herself: 'O! what sin have we committed that God has made us widows even worse than dogs.' She casts a look of despair at her mother, but the mother is helpless. The ordinance of custom must be rigidly followed. Her heart breaks at the sight of her daughter's agonies, but the rules of the *Shastars* cannot be broken. They say that it is written in the *Shastras* that the widow who drinks water and the person who gives her water on the day of *ekadasi* are both damned to eternal perdition."

This is an excellent fancy sketch, particularly the part relating to the flowing stream with a dog lapping by it inside a Hindu Zenana and within the ken of a young widow writhing in the agonies of lethal hunger and thrist; but it has, as our readers know well, no relation to truth. In the first place, the *ekadasi* is not an absolute fast, except among the Brahmans and Kayasthas of a few districts in Bengal. Among the rest in all parts of India, it is a fast in the same sense in which

Friday is a fast day in the Catholic Calendar. The transition is from boiled rice to milk, fruit and wheatencakes in the one case, and from flesh meat to fish in the other, the recurrence of the fast being once a fortnight in the case of the Hindu widow, and once every week in that of the Catholics, men, women, and children. If this be "an excruciating hardship," as Mr. Das calls it, there are many, both European and Indian, who would gladly welcome it. But to come to the widows who observe the absolute fast. They belong to the caste of Brahmans Kayasthas and Vaisyas in the districts of 24-Purgunnahs, Hooghly, Nuddea, Murshedabad, Jessore, and Burdwan. Data are not forthcoming to show the exact number of Brahman and Kayastha widows we have to deal with; but from the statement annexed below and compiled from the last census Report it appears that the total number of women of the two leading castes who observe absolute fast on the *ekadasi* in the different districts of Bengal where alone the rigorous fast has currency is 3,30,961. Of these three fourths are young, unmarried, or married, and the remaining fourth represents the widows who observe the fast in all its fulness. This gives a total of 82,740, and it is on account of these that the name of the seventy millions of Bengal is so often and so glibly invoked. Half a dozen mills in Manchester would give a longer list of spinsters whose circumstances in life are greatly worse. Every widow who can afford the means fortifies herself with an extra meal of wheaten cakes and milk the night previous. She is besides, accustomed to only one spare meal a day, and her hardships cannot certainly be of that "excruciating" a character which the essayist declares them to be. As a matter of fact Brahmani cooks in Hindu houses never get respite from their duties on their fast days, and our widowed ladies never abstain from their ordinary household duty on account of *ekadasi*. It may be added that most married women, in common with a great many men, observe the optional fasts of *Sivaratri*, *Janmashtami*, *Radhaashtami*, and others quite as absolute as the *Ekadasi* in Calcutta, and boys and girls have often to be forced by tender relations to abstain from them. Many strict Vaishnava men observe the *ekadasi* as a voluntary fast, and some go the length of adding to it the *Haribasara*, which requires the observer not to have a wink of sleep during the twenty-four hours the fast lasts. The usual practice is for a number of observers to assemble at dusk and pass the whole night in singing hymns and expounding some religious book or other. We ourselves have often witnessed a venerable octogenarian taking the lead at a *Haribasara*, expounding for an hour and then singing and dancing for an hour and so on till day dawn, without even resorting to the relief of the hooka to which, at ordinary times, he was deeply attached. He was of a thin, slender, spare make, rising about 5 feet 6 inches, but he had a mellifluous voice and indomitable energy. When singing he made his voice clearly audible at a distance of 300 yards. He lived in easy circumstances and it was nothing but devotion that induced him to undergo the exertion every fortnight long after he had passed his eightieth year. To represent such facts as "excruciating hardship" is either to display an ignorance truly abysmal, or an inordinate viciousness of heart which delights in misrepresentation. We are no advocates of absolute fasts for religious purposes; we should gladly see them abandoned but we cannot tolerate mountebankism in the name of humanity.

The complaint about widows being obliged to use the simplest clothing of cotton and being debarred the use of "silks and fine clothing" is of a piece with that about food—a minute atom of fact blown out into a mountain of fiction. It is well known that the Bengali females have no made dress in the English sense of the phrase. Each has a single piece of cloth which she wraps round herself, and that constitutes the dress, the difference in the quality of the wearer being indicated by the quality of the stuff used, and not by its cut. Under the circumstances, simplicity in the national dress cannot be carried any further. Mr. Das takes advantage of this and with the aid of falsehood, tries to throw dust on the eyes of his English readers. He knows well that the only difference between the dress of a widow and of a married woman lies in the color of the stuff used. There is no religious prohibition in the matter, but a widow of above 20 years of age would shock all sense of Bengali propriety and decency if she arrayed her person in all the colours of the rainbow. Her condition of mourning is best indicated by the national mourning colour, the white, and she will have no white clothing relieved by even a narrow colored border. The border is allowed to widows under 20 years of age without any scandal. It is a positive falsehood for a native to say that silk is prohibited. It is not. On the contrary silk, as *garad* or *tasser*, is recommended as purer and more suitable for widow's garb than cotton, provided it is not dyed, and as a matter of fact is very largely used. The question of color is a matter of taste; but this much is certain that even in Europe a widow who would abandon her black weeds too soon would find the voice of Mrs. Grundy too trenchant for her. As regards bedding Mr. Das is, as usual, only partially correct when he says that "a woman during the first month of widowhood must lie down on the bare ground, or perhaps on a coarse blanket spread on it." He should have added that woollen carpets of even the very best quality are permitted, and well-tanned soft deer leather is specially recommended, and pallets of straw are largely used by those classes who cannot afford the costly materials. He could also with becoming allegiance to truth and fair play, have added that the rule about bedding applies to all the chief mourners, the sons and daughters especially, and not limited to widows. He knew this perfectly well, for he dwelt with his father who observed the rules strictly enough when mourning the loss of a parent. But a reformer and essayist need not be burdened with unpleasant recollections. After the period of mourning the widow is as welcome to a feather bed as a son, and as a rule there is no difference in practice. The widow occupies the bedding and bedstead of her departed husband or any quite as good or better if she like it, the only condition being that she should not defile it.

We next come to social disqualifications. A widow may not mix in a marriage feast. There is as in other cases an atom of truth in it. A widow should not come forward to welcome a bride on her first entry into her new home nor take a part in the preparation of the articles required for the ceremony (*baran*) observed on that occasion of welcome, and also when the bridegroom is received for the first time in the zenana of his father-in-law. This may be a hardship, but it is certainly not more grievous than the exclusion of widows from the ranks of bride's maids in England, and the man who brings it forward as a proof of the hard lot of Indian widows is, to say the least, a victim of aggravated obliquity of moral perception. He indulges in fatuous flapdoodle and transcendental moonshine while he professes that he is speaking the truth.

Statement of Brahmans and Kayasthas in the Rigorous Ekadasi Districts of Bengal.

DISTRICT.	BRAHMANS.		KAYASTHAS.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Burdwan ...	49,807	57,877	14,890	18,679
Hooghly ...	35,476	40,795	10,857	14,627
Howrah ...	19,666	19,475	8,010	7,839
24-Pergunnahs ...	31,251	31,419	14,968	15,045
Sahabad ...	8,412	4,951	9,416	5,365
Calcutta ...	27,043	11,825	24,463	13,107
Nadia ...	27,542	42,352	18,400	22,380
Moorshedabad ...	16,906	17,029	7,459	8,196
	7,16,103	2,25,723	1,08,463	1,05,238
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IN MEMORIAM.

One of our best men has passed away. Babu Rajkrishna Mukerjee, M. A. B. L., the Translator to the local Government, and Official Reporter of the Vernacular Press, has fallen a victim to Diabetes, which has prematurely deprived Bengal of so many of her best sons. Incessant studies and the labors of his office after the passing of the Press Gagging Act, and particularly during the Ilbert Bill and the Rent Bill controversy, had long undermined his health and the work of destruction was completed by a fatal carbuncle, under which he succumbed on Sunddy before last. He was just forty-one years old when he died. Sir Henry Maine, in a Convocation speech, truly observed of him that his attainments would do honor to the best of Oxford men. Long did he do arduous service, in the Education Department, filling with credit the chairs of History, Philosophy and English literature at Patna, Cattack, Baharampore and at the General Assembly's Institution and the Presidency College. The anomaly of a foreigner filling the post of Vernacular Translator to the Government was removed by Sir Ashley Eden in 1878, and Sir Ashley's choice, on the strong recommendation of Messrs. Tawney and Croft, rested on the lamented deceased, who by his scholarly attainments, his singular honesty, and, above all, by his innate gentlemanliness stood high in the estimation of his official superiors and in fact of all who ever had occasion of knowing him with any degree of intimacy. He was the writer of several very clever poetical works, foremost of which is the *Mitrabilap*, throughout which there runs an exquisite and delicate pathos hardly to be met with in works that have succeeded in creating a greater noise. His writings on history, philosophy and general literature were many, varied and valuable and his able contributions to the *Bangadarshan* long formed a feature of that well-known magazine. He conducted the *Bengali* newspaper for several years with great ability, and his contributions occasionally enriched the columns of the *Hindoo Patriot* during the life time of our illustrious predecessor. He was an antiquarian and a linguist, and besides English and Sanscrit he had command over Assamese, Uria, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, French, German, Latin and Pali. His knowledge of Pali and Sanscrit enabled him to prosecute original researches into the Budhistic Scriptures which commanded the admiration of his fellow members of the Asiatic Society. As a member of the committee of the Science Association, he took the keenest interest in scientific researches and spread of scientific knowledge in the country. In days when superficial education is so much in vogue, it was refreshing to see this student of forty-one going in for any particular branch of knowledge in a truly scholarlike spirit. To create a noise, to make a name and fame for himself was never in his line. Vast as his erudition was in all departments of philosophy and literature, its extent was never fully known to any who knew him not closely, so quiet, unobtrusive, and unassuming were his manners. Those that knew him best will not remember him as the exquisite poet, the deep scholar, the learned professor, the pains-taking antiquarian, the able officer or the profound linguist. He will be best remembered as the amiable gentleman, whose suavity of manners and unruffled temper would shirk from giving the least offence to any one. In his habits and his tastes he was simple literally as a child, and of him it might truly be said that "his heart was born a full twenty-five years after his body." In these days of disgusting scepticism and heartless sophistry it was a relief to come across men of Rajkrishna's stamp. All who knew him could have but one feeling for him; it is unique that he was not divided from the love of a single soul that he ever came in contact with. Those who knew him well know what a sad loss the community has sustained; they feel that they are not likely to be in a hurry to see his like again. To his sorrowing family and to Babu Radhika Prosonno Mukerjee, the able Inspector of Schools, the brother and guardian of the deceased from his childhood up to fortyone—we offer our incerest condolence.

Latest News and Notes.

So little do Commissions appointed by Government now a days, actually achieve while promising much, that people have naturally come to regard them with distrust and look upon them as merely stop-gap measures intended to serve other than the professed purposes of Government. The generally defective constitution of these Commissions goes a great way in adding to their unpopularity. We are not surprised therefore to see that the Government Resolution regarding the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the system under which Indians are admitted to the Indian Civil Service, is not quite so warmly received as the supreme importance of the subject entitled it to be. The commission will have, it seems, a wider scope and is being called the Public Service Commission. It will consist of about fifteen members with Sir Charles Aitchison as its President. The Bengal, North Western, Madras and Bombay Governments have been called upon to submit the names of their officers from which the Viceroy will select four Provincial representatives. These Governments have also been asked to name three Indian gentlemen each, from among whom four more members will be selected. The Viceroy reserves the power of making additional nominations for securing complete representation of Indian opinion. Representatives of the non-official European and Eurasian Communities will also be selected, and a delegate on behalf of the Government of India and a trained English lawyer of judicial experience will also be appointed. Mr. F. C. Daukes has been appointed Secretary to the Commission. The Enquiry will embrace the employment of natives of India not only in appointments ordinarily reserved for members of the Covenanted Civil Service, but also in the Uncovenanted Service generally. The Commission will, however, mainly direct its attention to the question of the conditions under which the natives of India should be employed in posts ordinarily reserved for the Covenanted Civil Service, and to questions relating to the admission of Indians and Europeans to those branches of the Uncovenanted Service which are directly engaged in executive and judicial administration. Any inquiry in regard to other branches of the public service will be postponed until these more important questions have been dealt with.

The Viceroy is anxious to complete the nominations before his Excellency leaves the hills. The names therefore recommended by the local Governments are probably on their way to Simla already. We shall not try to conjecture who the nominees are, but we beg to assure the Government, both Local and the Imperial, that the success or otherwise of the Commission must entirely depend on its constitution. An Indian enquiry, made almost entirely by Civilians who are deeply interested in the settlement of the issues, is not likely to be a very just and impartial one, though the Commission may be one whose sole object will be to collect information for the use of the Parliamentary Commission that is talked of as a probability next session. A preponderance of the civilian element in the commission will inevitably turn it into an appologising committee, a catastrophe infinitely worse than useless. Persistent has been the agitation, both in England and India, in regard to this question, and it would be a thousand pities if the faulty Constitution of the committee spoiled the labours of years. It behoves the public bodies all through the country to unite for seeing that really able and independent Indians are appointed, so that the balance of power may be maintained as satisfactorily as possible. We have had commissions literally without number in our time, not one of which has done any tangible good. We shall be really sorry if this one also were to go their way. The selection of the President would seem to imply that Government is in earnest for removing the absurd and monstrous disabilities imposed on the children of the soil to serve their mother-land. But we shall not cherish any sanguine expectations for we have strong misgivings that the usual smoke and fuss will be the result.

We regret we cannot approve of the spirit of the Resolution, which has a tendency to affect the right conferred by Parliament on the people of the country of holding all places, office, and employments under the Crown and to militate against the principle of their admission into the Covented Civil Service upon terms of equality with Her Majesty's British born subjects. The problem which is now before the country is not to make the Statutory Civil Service popular, but to afford every resonable facility to Indians to compete for the Civil Service which opens the door to the higher offices of trust and responsibility in the Administration. Our countrymen do not desire special favours to be conferred upon them. They seek no distinctive service. They urge for the removal of the obstacles which are placed in their way by the reduction of the limit of age, and the holding of the open competitive Examination in London. The maximum age should be raised to at least 21 and open competition should be allowed in India simultaneously with that in London. By to the way we hope Justice Cunninghan is not the "trained English Lawyer of Judicial Experience" that the Government has its eye on, for that would be the most objectionable selection it could think of.

The boon conferred on the people of Hoogly and the adjacent Districts by the Tarkessur Railway is as yet incomplete. A line of this charactar must largely depend for its success on good feeder roads connecting the main line with the interior of the country whose "richness" the line is supposed to tap, and the feeder roads of this Railway are particularly few and wretched. When the line was opened about two years ago there was plenty of talk about immediately taking in hand the question of proper feeder roads, but nothing practical came of it. The Govern nent has, it is true, sanctioned three roads, not one of which can be constructed, because forsooth the Road Cess Committee is too poor to meet the expenses, and matters lie exactly where they did. The Government should therefore come down with a handsome subsidy and the Directors and shareholders of the Tarkessur Railway ought to be able to see that the full measure of usefulness of their line can never be attained until the feeder roads are as many and as well as they should be. They are only a very young company, and the profits they have already been able to show is greatly in excess of their expectations. The profits, they should never forget, will be considerably larger as soon as the feeder roads, through which their constituents and would-be constituents have to pass, are all right. They will soon have a meeting of their share-holders and they cannot do better than discuss this question at the meeting, and lay by a certain amount of their profits for the maintenance of these roads, so that their dividend may be larger still when they meet at the next annual meeting. Many people would be only too glad to avail of the monthly tickets and abolish their town establishments if only they could be sure that they would not have to wade home at dusk through ankle-, knee-, and at times, waist-deep of mud and water. Many who have occasion to send home goods, prefer doing so through Hoogly Mymari and other circuitous routes where there are good roads, and save a good deal of money at the cost of a few nominal extra hours. Roads connecting Khanakool, Radhanagore, Krishnanagore, Dusghura and other important and populous places cannot but bring a large outturn to the company. The matter is worth the serious consideration of the shareholders, for feeder roads are of no less importance than permanent way and rolling stock for the ultimate success of their line.

Our Mahomedan friends were sadly put out last week about the "intention" of some one to put on the stage a play on the Life of Mahammad. They ran wild after the crow which was said to have flown away with their ears, without ever thinking of the propriety of putting their hands on the sides of their heads to see if the ears were there or not, and the Police ran after them. The good sense of some of our friends soon returned to them, and we are glad to announce that the tempest in the tea pot has all subsided. without harm to any one except the publisher of a life of Mahammad, which he has allowed to be burnt by—by—Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadur.

The case against Guard Snelling was decided at Krishnagore on the 16th instant. The Magistrate, Mr. Hopkins, found the accused guilty, and sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 100, or, in default, to suffer three weeks' simple imprisonment. The punishment, the general feeling rightly is, is ridiculously inadequate considering the enormity of the offence. The fault however lay we believe, with the frame of the charge itself, under the Railway Act, and not under any of the numerous sections of the comprehensive Penal Code.

Telegrams.

The Rungpore 'deer'-case against Sreemoty Prosonnomoye Dasi has collapsed. Mr. Ghose the counsel for the defence urged that the prosecution was a malicious one and that Mr. Shuttleworth the Assistant Police Superintendent was the real complainant. Opportunity was given to Mr. Shuttleworth to apologise or to come and deny the serious charges made against him publicly; which he never did though he was present at the court house. The case which created great sensation in Rangpore was dismissed without the accused being called upon to go into a defence.

In consequence of a despatch from M. de Giers stating that the Emperor of Russia will adhere to the Bulgarian constitution, the Regents are disposed to make concessions in favour of Russia, as far as the laws of Bulgaria will permit.

England favours the idea of the Austrian Government that a Conference should be held for the settlement of the Bulgarian question.

The Austro-Hungarian representative at St. Petersburg, acting upon the instructions of his Government, complained to the Russian Government against the conduct of General Kaulbars, the Russian diplomatic agent at Sofia.

General Kaulbars ordered the Commandant at Rustchuk to release the plotters of the late revolution, at the same time offering him a reward to do so. The Commandant having consulted the troops in garrison, refused to carry out the order.

General Kaulbars, in his tour in the provinces, was received coldly everywhere.

The Bulgarian Government has sent a Note to the Great Powers protesting againt the action of General Kaulbars in Bulgaria.

The elections for the Grand Sobranje commenced on the 9th instant, when one hundred and fifty peasants from the neighbourhood of Sofia, at the initiative of M. Neklindoff, attempted to obstruct the proceedings, and an armed conflict ensued in which many were wounded. The Gendarmes eventually dispersed the mob.

In the elections for the Grand Sobranje the Government has gained a crushing majority. The Russian Consuls in the principal towns throughout Bulgaria have attempted to prevent the elections. M. Neklindoff, in obedience to orders received from General Kaulbars, notified to the Bulgarian Government that the elections are illegal and valueless. He has protested against rioting and the treatment of the peasants.

The Bulgarian Government, in reply to M. Neklindoff's notification that the elections were illegal and valueless, has replied that the Grand Sobranje alone can be the judge as to the legality of elections. The Government has also declared that M. Neklindoff is answerable for the rioting which took place Sunday before last.

The Russian Press regards the pacification of Bulgaria as quite hopeless, and state that decisive action on the part of Russia is not far distant.

General Kaulbars has been suddenly ordered to abandon his tour in Roumelia, and has returned to Rustchuk, whence he proceeds to Sofia with the object of delaying the meeting of the Sobranje.

The *Nord Deutsch Zeitung* says that the result of the Bulgarian elections proves that Prince Alexander has made a mistake in abdicating the throne. The powers are actively discussing the question of a successor to the Prince.

Dr. De Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, —Its Unequalled Efficacy in General Debility —In cases Of Debility and Defective Nutrition, the use of this celebrated Oil has been attended with remarkably beneficial results. Rowlands Dalton, Esq. District Medical Officer, Bury St.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*October 13.* 1886.

General—6th Oct—Mr E W Collin, O J M and D C, on special duty, leave for five weeks, from 21st Aug.

7th Oct—Baboo Gobind Prosad Sookool, O D M and D C, leave for one year, without allowance, in extension.

The Lieut-Govr accepts the resignation tendered by Capt L J Crowdy of his commission in the Behar Light Horse.

8th Oct—Baboo Nund Kissore Das, Asst Supdt of the Tributary Mehal Cuttack, is vested with the powers of a Colr in Angul.

Baboo Bunkim Chander Chatterjee, D M and D C., Howrah, leave for six months.

Mr. A. D. B. Gomess, D M and D C is posted to Howrah, on being relieved of his present special duty under the board of revenue.

Mr. F C Harrison, O J M and D C, Baraset, 24-Pergh, leave from the 22nd Sept, to 1st inst, in extension.

11th Oct—Mr. C W Bolton, O M and C, Gya, on leave, to act as M and C of Cuttack, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr G M Currie.

Baboo Annada Prosad Ghose, D M and D C, Burdwan, to the Personal Asst to the Comr of the Burdwan Divn.

Police—7th Oct—Mr H N Boileau, Offg Asst Supdt of Police, Dinagepore, leave for one month, in extension.

Medical—4th Octr—Surg W. Owen, Offg Civil Surg, Pubna, on leave, to act as Civil Surgn of Midnapore during the absence, on forlough, of Surg A Tomes.

7th Oct—Surg J Clarke, Seeond Resdt surg, Presidency General Hospital, to be sub pro tem, First Resident Surg in that institution, during the absence, on deputation, of Surg R D Murray.

28th Sept—The Lieut-Govr is pleased to appt the Chief Engr of the Dockyard and the following gentlemen to examine the qualificatiens of persons desirous of obtaining Certificates of Competency as Engineers and Engine-drivers :—(1) Mr. W B Dewar, of Messr Morrison, Dewar and Company, Engineers, Garden Reach ; (2) Mr. N J Bolton, Snpdg Engr, India General Steam Navigation Company, Limited. The Chief Engr of the Dockyard shall be the permanent President of the Examination Board.

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NOTICE

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No 38 STRAND, Calcutta 1 October, 1886 } HORE MILLER & Co, Managing Agents.

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(নূতন অপূর্ব্ব উপন্যাস)

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